

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE		ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER
FORM PTO-1390 (Modified) (REV 11-2000)		216899US6PCT
TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US) CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371		U.S. APPLICATION NO. (IF KNOWN, SEE 37 CFR 10/009351
INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO PCT/FR00/01602	INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE 9 June 2000	PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED 9 June 1999
TITLE OF INVENTION METHOD AND INSTALLATION FOR MAKING ABRASIVE GRINDERS AND GRINDER OBTAINED BY SAID METHOD		
APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US BANCON Georges et al.		
Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information.		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This is a FIRST submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371 2. <input type="checkbox"/> This is a SECOND or SUBSEQUENT submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371. 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This is an express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)). The submission must include items (5), (6), (9) and (24) indicated below. 4. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The US has been elected by the expiration of 19 months from the priority date (Article 31). 5. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. <input type="checkbox"/> is attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau) b. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> has been communicated by the International Bureau c. <input type="checkbox"/> is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US) 6. <input type="checkbox"/> An English language translation of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. <input type="checkbox"/> is attached hereto. b. <input type="checkbox"/> has been previously submitted under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4). 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. <input type="checkbox"/> are attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau) b. <input type="checkbox"/> have been communicated by the International Bureau. c. <input type="checkbox"/> have not been made, however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired d. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> have not been made and will not be made 8. <input type="checkbox"/> An English language translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)) 9. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4)) 10. <input type="checkbox"/> An English language translation of the annexes to the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5)) 11. <input type="checkbox"/> A copy of the International Preliminary Examination Report (PCT/IPEA/409). 12. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A copy of the International Search Report (PCT/ISA/210). 		
Items 13 to 20 below concern document(s) or information included:		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 13. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98 14. <input type="checkbox"/> An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included. 15. <input type="checkbox"/> A FIRST preliminary amendment 16. <input type="checkbox"/> A SECOND or SUBSEQUENT preliminary amendment. 17. <input type="checkbox"/> A substitute specification 18. <input type="checkbox"/> A change of power of attorney and/or address letter 19. <input type="checkbox"/> A computer-readable form of the sequence listing in accordance with PCT Rule 13ter 2 and 35 U.S.C. 1821 - 1825 20. <input type="checkbox"/> A second copy of the published international application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4). 21. <input type="checkbox"/> A second copy of the English language translation of the international application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4) 22. <input type="checkbox"/> Certificate of Mailing by Express Mail 23. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other items or information. 		
Request for Priority PCT/IB/308 PCT/IB/304 Form PTO-1449		

U.S. APPLICATION NO. (IF KNOWN) SEE 37 CFR
10/009351

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO.
PCT/FR00/01602

ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER
216899US6PCT

24. The following fees are submitted:

BASIC NATIONAL FEE (37 CFR 1.492 (a) (1) - (5)) :

<input type="checkbox"/> Neither international preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) nor international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO and International Search Report not prepared by the EPO or JPO	\$1040.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but International Search Report prepared by the EPO or JPO	\$890.00
<input type="checkbox"/> International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO	\$740.00
<input type="checkbox"/> International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) paid to USPTO but all claims did not satisfy provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4)	\$710.00
<input type="checkbox"/> International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) paid to USPTO and all claims satisfied provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4)	\$100.00

ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT =

\$890.00

Surcharge of **\$130.00** for furnishing the oath or declaration later than
months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492 (e)). 20 30

\$130.00

CLAIMS	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA	RATE	
Total claims	- 20 =	0	x \$18.00	\$0.00
Independent claims	- 3 =	0	x \$84.00	\$0.00

Multiple Dependent Claims (check if applicable)

TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS =

\$1,020.00

Applicant claims small entity status See 37 CFR 1.27) The fees indicated above are reduced by 1/2.

SUBTOTAL = **\$1,020.00**

Processing fee of **\$130.00** for furnishing the English translation later than
months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492 (f)). 20 30 + **\$130.00**

TOTAL NATIONAL FEE = **\$1,150.00**

Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be
accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31) (check if applicable). **\$0.00**

TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED = **\$1,150.00**

Amount to be:	\$
refunded	
charged	\$

- A check in the amount of **\$1,150.00** to cover the above fees is enclosed
- Please charge my Deposit Account No. _____ in the amount of _____ to cover the above fees. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed
- The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No **15-0030** A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed
- Fees are to be charged to a credit card. **WARNING: Information on this form may become public Credit card information should not be included on this form.** Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038

NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR 1.137(a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status.

SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:

Surinder Sachar
Registration No. 34,423

22850

SIGNATURE

Gregory J. Maier

NAME

25,599

REGISTRATION NUMBER

Dec. 10 2001

DATE

NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR 1.496) may be filed to restore the application to pending status.

REPLY TO A CORRESPONDENCE TO

**Surinder Sachar
Registration No. 34,423**



22850

SIGNATURE

Gregory J. Maier

NAME

25,599

REGISTRATION NUMBER

Dec. 10 2001

DATE

Rec'd PCT/PTO 07 JUN 2002

Docket No. 216899US6PCT

IN RE APPLICATION OF: Georges BANCON et al.

SERIAL NO: 10/009,351

FILED: December 10, 2001

FOR: PROCESS AND INSTALLATION FOR PRODUCTION OF ABRASIVE GRINDING WHEELS, AND
GRINDING WHEEL PRODUCED BY THIS PROCESS

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

Transmitted herewith is an amendment in the above-identified application.

No additional fee is required
 Small entity status of this application under 37 C.F.R. §1.9 and §1.27 is claimed.
 Additional documents filed herewith: Notification of Missing Requirements/Response to Notification/Declaration
Check for \$520.00/Petition for Extension of Time/English Translation

The Fee has been calculated as shown below:

CLAIMS	CLAIMS REMAINING		HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID	NO. EXTRA CLAIMS	RATE	CALCULATIONS
TOTAL	22	MINUS	20	2	x \$18 =	\$36.00
INDEPENDENT	4	MINUS	3	1	x \$84 =	\$84.00
<input type="checkbox"/> MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIMS						+ \$280 = \$0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS						\$120.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Reduction by 50% for filing by Small Entity						\$0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Recordation of Assignment						+ \$40 = \$0.00
						TOTAL \$120.00

A check in the amount of \$0.00 is attached.
 Please charge any additional Fees for the papers being filed herewith and for which no check is enclosed herewith, or credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 15-0030. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.
 If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time may be charged to Deposit Account No. 15-0030. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



22850

Customer Number 22850
Tel. (703) 413-3000
Fax. (703) 413-2220
(OSMMN 10/01)

Surinder Sachar
Gregory J. Maier
Registration No. 25,599
Surinder Sachar
Registration No. 34,423

REG'D PCT/PTO 07 JUN 2002

216899US-6 PCT

#7/
a

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF

GEORGES BANCON ET AL. : ATTN: APPLICATION DIVISION

SERIAL NO: 10/009,351 :

FILED: December 10, 2001 :

FOR: PROCESS AND INSTALLATION FOR:
PRODUCTION OF ABRASIVE GRINDING
WHEELS, AND GRINDING WHEEL
PRODUCED BY THIS PROCESS

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

Prior to a first examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the title on page 1, line 1 with the following:

--METHOD AND INSTALLATION FOR MAKING ABRASIVE GRINDERS AND
GRINDER OBTAINED BY SAID METHOD--.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 1-22 without prejudice.

Please add new Claims 23-44 as follows:

23. (New) A process for production of grinding wheels provided with an abrasive product, the process comprising superposing at least two layers of constituent, at least one of

which is a blank, which itself is constituted at least from abrasive grains, and assembling these at least two layers of constituent.

24. (New) A process according to claim 23, wherein the blank comprises at least one layer of constituent without abrasive grains, especially a reinforcing sheet.

25. (New) A process according to claim 23, wherein, to make the blank, an abrasive product formed from abrasive grains provided with a coating constituted by a binder is poured into a mold, a level of abrasive product is adjusted to a desired value, and the abrasive product is compressed.

26. (New) A process according to claim 24, wherein, to make the blank, an abrasive product formed from abrasive grains provided with a coating constituted by a binder is poured into a mold, a level of abrasive product is adjusted to a desired value, at least one other layer of constituent without abrasive grains, especially a reinforcing sheet, is deposited, and a resulting composition is compressed.

27. (New) A process according to claim 23, wherein layers of constituent comprising the blank are laid successively one on top of the other to constitute a stack, then the stack is heated and subsequently the stack is pressed.

28. (New) A process according to claim 23, wherein the layers of constituent are superposed along an assembly line, which is equipped with layer-laying stations and along which the layers being superposed are made to travel in a form of stacks, stocks of stacks being constituted in at least certain stations, from which the stocked stacks are taken one by one to superpose thereon a new layer of constituent, and the stack provided with its new layer being evacuated from the station toward the following station.

29. (New) An installation for making grinding wheels provided with an abrasive product, comprising at least one machine for making blanks from abrasive grains, an

assembly line equipped with stations disposed in succession, at a position of which layers intended to constitute the grinding wheel and comprising at least one blank obtained from the blank-making machine are superposed to constitute a stack of superposed layers, followed by a heating station where the stack of layers is heated, and with at least one pressing machine for compressing the stack, this pressing machine having a form of a pressing station positioned at one of an end of the assembly line or downstream from the assembly line.

30. (New) An installation according to claim 29, wherein the blank-making machine is provided with a production carousel equipped with molds and specialized working stations comprising a station for pouring an abrasive, a leveling station, a pressing station, a discharge station, a cleaning station, and a storage table for storage of produced blanks.

31. (New) An installation according to claim 29, wherein the assembly line is provided with an endless conveyor that carries fixed plates configured to receive removable plates configured to receive stacks of elements constituting the grinding wheel.

32. (New) An installation according to claim 29, wherein the assembly line is provided with a station for laying rings, stations for laying layers of constituent, and a heating station.

33. (New) An installation according to claim 29, wherein the assembly line is provided with a least one station comprising a temporary stocking device.

34. (New) An installation for production of grinding wheels, comprising:
a station for filling a mold with at least one layer of constituent from which at least one blank is formed;
a machine for pressing the at least one layer of constituent contained in the mold in order to form the blank;

an assembly station designed to form a stack of superposed layers from at least one blank and at least one other layer of constituent;
a pressing machine for compressing the stack and forming the grinding wheel.

35. (New) An installation according to claim 34, wherein the stations and machines are disposed around a production carousel on which at least one mold is fixed.

36. (New) An installation according to claim 35, wherein the production carousel is divided into sectors corresponding to working stations for consecutive operations, and each sector comprises at least one position for a mold and at least one position on which one or more layers of constituent of the grinding wheel are configured to be disposed.

37. (New) An installation according to claim 36, further comprising a production carousel divided into a plurality of sectors, each sector corresponding respectively to the working stations in which following consecutive operations are performed:

deposition and leveling of abrasive grains coated with a binder in a mold situated at a first position of the sector, especially by means of a tool, and deposition of at least one layer of component, especially a protective layer, at a second position of the sector,

deposition of at least one layer of component, especially a reinforcing sheet, on the abrasive grains in the mold, and deposition of at least one layer of component, especially a protective sheet and/or a reinforcing sheet, at the second position,

pressing by the pressing machine designed to form at least one blank from the layers of constituent contained in at least one mold,

constitution of the stack, which takes at least one blank from the first position to lay it at the second position and thus constituting at least one stack formed by the layers of constituent disposed beforehand in a location and by the at least one blank,

pressing the stack situated at position in order to consolidate a grinding wheel by the pressing machine,
evacuation of the grinding wheel.

38. (New) An installation according to claim 29, wherein the pressing machine is provided with a carousel equipped with jack-operated presses provided with a movable tool assembly comprising a mold provided with a bottom and a side wall mounted slidably around the bottom, and with a mold support, which is fixed to a piston of the jack and to which the bottom and the side wall are interlocked by spring devices, which are designed such that, during extension of the jack, they subject the stack to a pressing force while surrounding the stack with the side wall and, during retraction of the jack, they initiate start of an upward movement of the side wall while the bottom is still against the stack, then the upward movement of the bottom while the side wall continues its upward movement.

39. (New) An installation according to claim 29, wherein the pressing machine is provided with presses, each equipped with a support for a removable plate configured to receive a stack of layers of constituents of the grinding wheel, and with a cam surface over which rollers travel, each roller interlocked with a support to raise the support for evacuation of the grinding wheel and reloading of the removable plate on the assembly line.

40. (New) A grinding wheel provided with an abrasive product, produced by the process according to claim 23, comprising at least one reinforcing layer pierced by holes in which part of the abrasive product is distributed, which is formed from abrasive grains.

41. (New) A grinding wheel according to claim 40, further comprising a central ring.

42. (New) A grinding wheel according to claim 40, further comprising at least one layer of abrasive product, and leach layer of abrasive product sandwiched between two reinforcing layers.

43. (New) A grinding wheel according to claim 40, wherein a thickness of the grinding wheel is less than or equal to 2 mm, or even less than or equal to 1 mm.

44. (New) A factory or factory section for production of grinding wheels, provided with an abrasive product, wherein the factory or the factory section is divided into at least first and second zones, and the first zone is designed for production of blanks constituted at least from abrasive grains and the second zone is configured for assembly of at least one blank and at least one other layer of constituent without abrasive grains in order to constitute a grinding wheel.

IN THE ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Please add the following new Abstract on a separate sheet.

ABSTRACT

An abrasive product is formed, in a blank making machine, into a layer forming a blank including at least abrasive grains. The layer is then set atop on at least another material layer and assembled thereto. The installation includes, besides at least a blank making machine, an assembly line along which successive posts are provided at the site whereof the elements designed to form the grinder are set on top of one another to form a stack, a station for heating the stack, and at least a pressing machine to compress the heated stack. An embodiment need not include the heating station. The grinder is a thin grinder that can include at least a reinforcing layer pierced with a hole wherein the abrasive product is distributed. The process is useful for making grinders for parting, machining, or pumicing.

REMARKS

Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended, is respectfully requested.

The present preliminary amendment is submitted to place the above-identified application in more proper format under United States practice.

By the present Preliminary Amendment original Claims 1-22 are canceled and new Claims 23-44 are presented for examination. New Claims 23-44 are deemed to be self-evident from the original disclosure, including original Claims 1-22, and thus are not deemed to raise any issues of new matter. Further, no differences between new Claims 23-44 and original Claims 1-22 are believed to narrow the scope of new Claims 23-44.

An Abstract is also submitted herein.

The present application is believed to be in condition for a full and thorough examination on the merits. An early and favorable consideration of the present application is hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Gregory J. Maier
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 25,599
Surinder Sachar
Registration No. 34,423



22850

(703) 413-3000
Fax No.: (703)413-2220
GJM/SNS:sjh/kst

216899US-6 PCT

Marked-Up Copy
Serial No:
<u>10/009,351</u>
Amendment Filed on:
<u>6-7-2002</u>

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the title on page 1, with the following:

[PROCESS AND INSTALLATION FOR PRODUCTION OF ABRASIVE GRINDING
WHEELS, AND GRINDING WHEEL PRODUCED BY THIS PROCESS] METHOD AND
INSTALLATION FOR MAKING ABRASIVE GRINDERS AND GRINDER OBTAINED
BY SAID METHOD

IN THE CLAIMS

--Claims 1-22 (Canceled).

Claims 23-44 (New).--

IN THE ABSTRACT

--(New).--

PROCESS AND INSTALLATION FOR PRODUCTION OF ABRASIVE GRINDING WHEELS, AND GRINDING WHEEL PRODUCED BY THIS PROCESS

The invention relates to the production of abrasive grinding wheels, and more precisely to a process and installation for production of such grinding wheels, as well as to the grinding wheels obtained.

Abrasive grinding wheels of the so-called "thin grinding wheel" type (having a thickness of several millimeters), such as cutting-off grinding wheels, are generally produced at present by disposing, in a mold placed on a production plate, a central ring around which there are stacked layers of various materials designed to constitute the grinding wheel; for example, a so-called "paper" protective sheet is deposited on which a so-called "fabric" reinforcing sheet is superposed, which sheet is pierced with holes that can be defined by meshes if the sheet has a woven structure, a pulverulent product formed from abrasive grains provided with a coating constituted by a binder is poured onto the reinforcing sheet in such a way that this product becomes distributed in the holes of the reinforcing sheet and in addition constitutes a layer superposed on this reinforcing layer, the layer of pulverulent product is skimmed to reduce its thickness to the desired value, a second reinforcing sheet is superposed on the layer of pulverulent product, then, if the grinding wheel to be produced is of the type having a single layer of abrasive (so-called "monolayer" grinding wheel), a second so-called "paper" protective sheet is superposed on this reinforcing sheet, and the composite constituted in this way is compressed in a press, whereas a grinding wheel containing several layers of abrasives (so-called "multilayer" grinding wheel) is produced by alternately pouring a layer of pulverulent product and superposing a reinforcing sheet as many times as needed by the type of grinding wheel to be produced, before this second protective sheet is superposed and compression is applied.

Automatic operation of this process generally takes place on a carousel whose

general shape is circular and whose sectors are equipped with working stations; each station is equipped with a plurality of identical tool assemblies for performing the same task simultaneously on the contents of a plurality of molds, the first task being laying of the ring and the second being discharge of the grinding wheels after pressing, this being performed on the table.

In relatively simple installations which are not designed to produce a very large number of grinding wheels, the carousel can be provided with, for example, six stations (for laying the ring, for laying the "paper", for laying the "fabric", for pouring the pulverulent product and skimming it by means of a sliding member, for laying the second "fabric", for laying the second "paper", and for pressing and discharge) and with four tool assemblies per station, thus requiring the table already to have an area of several square meters; greater specialization of the stations quickly leads to eight-station installations, while the need to produce a larger quantity leads to stations that may each be provided with nine tool assemblies.

The tasks may be distributed over a plurality of carousels, between which the composites undergoing production must be transferred, all the more so if the number of pulverulent layers and therefore of tool assemblies with slides must be greater.

It is already obvious that, in the simple case of a carousel having six stations with four tool assemblies each, there must be disposed 24 tool assemblies, each of which has a very high cost.

In addition, the speed of rotation of the table is dictated by the duration of the longest task, which is generally pouring and skimming of the pulverulent product, or pressing if this is performed in a continuous sequence with the preceding tasks.

In addition, it is inevitable that some pulverulent product formed from abrasive grains will be accidentally spilled outside the mold, and even in very small quantity it leads to rapid wear of the carousel and of the tool assemblies associated therewith, especially the tool assemblies with slides, whose sliding becomes difficult; changing even of only a single tool assembly necessitates immobilization of the carousel and thus

shutdown of production.

Likewise, it is necessary to change a large number of tool assemblies whenever it is desired to produce grinding wheels of a different type.

As a result, the real "availability" time of the carousel for the production of grinding wheels is relatively short.

In addition, the installation is not very flexible, because it is practically impossible to add stations or tool assemblies onto the carousel.

Furthermore, since pressing has to be performed simultaneously at high pressure on several composites, it is necessary to develop very large forces and thus to use materials and devices with high mechanical strength.

Finally, distribution of the pulverulent product on the surface of the "fabric" is difficult to control, and the grinding wheels are seen to exhibit more or less considerable unbalance that can cause disintegration of the grinding wheel while it is being used at high speeds of rotation.

The object of the invention is to remedy these disadvantages and, to this end, the invention relates to a process for production of grinding wheels of the thin grinding wheel type provided with an abrasive product, characterized in that it comprises a stage consisting of superposing at least two layers of constituent, one of which is a blank, which itself is constituted at least from abrasive grains, and of assembling these at least two layers of constituent.

By "layer of constituent" there is understood a layer provided with at least one material intended to constitute the grinding wheel. These materials are in particular of the so-called "paper" protective sheet type or of the so-called "fabric" reinforcing sheet type, or of the type of a layer formed from abrasive grains provided with a coating constituted by a binder.

By "blank" there is understood a layer of constituent having a consistency such that the blank can be manipulated, and in particular seized and moved by hand or by means of a machine.

According to one embodiment of the invention, at least one blank is constituted by adhesive grains coated with a binder.

According to another version of the invention, at least one blank comprises, in addition to abrasive grains coated with a binder, at least one layer of constituent without abrasive grains, especially a reinforcing layer, in particular constituted by glass fibers.

By virtue of the fact that a blank is made first of all and that the different layers are then superposed, the time for passage to each subsequent station can be appreciably shortened, since it no longer depends on the duration of the operations of pouring of the pulverulent product or of pressing under high pressure.

The process can also have one or more of the following characteristics:

- ▶ to make the blank, an abrasive product formed from abrasive grains provided with a coating constituted by a binder is poured into a mold, the level of abrasive product is adjusted to a desired value, and the abrasive product is compressed;
- ▶ the layers of constituent comprising at least one blank are laid successively one on top of the other to constitute a stack, then the stack is heated and subsequently the stack is pressed;
- ▶ the layers of constituent are superposed along an assembly line, which is equipped with layer-laying stations and along which the layers being superposed are made to travel in the form of stacks, stocks of stacks being constituted in at least certain stations, from which the stocked stacks are taken one by one to superpose thereon a new layer of constituent, and the stack provided with its new layer being evacuated from the station toward the following station.

In another version according to the invention, when the blank comprises at least one layer of constituent without abrasive, an abrasive product formed from abrasive grains provided with a coating constituted by a binder is first poured into the mold, the level of abrasive product is adjusted to a desired value, at least one other layer of constituent without abrasive, especially a reinforcing sheet, is then laid above the level of the abrasive product, and the composite constituted by at least one reinforcing sheet and the abrasive product is compressed.

This last version is particularly suitable for obtaining so-called "extra-thin" grinding wheels, whose thickness is, for example, less than 2 mm, or even equal to or smaller than 1 mm. This particular type of grinding wheel is generally constituted by a "monolayer" grinding wheel, and it must be made with the greatest care to avoid the problems of unbalance or of lack of product in certain zones of the grinding wheel that are particularly acute when this type of grinding wheel is produced by traditional methods. In fact, it is often noted that the reinforcing layers are poorly distributed in the grinding wheel. The method according to the version of the invention where a blank provided with a reinforcing layer laid on a layer of abrasive is produced in a mold for making the said blank, makes it possible in particular to become free of the problems of unbalance and of lack of product in certain zones of the grinding wheel and thus to increase the yields of production of extra-thin grinding wheels considerably.

In fact, the action of first of all depositing the abrasive grains and then a reinforcing sheet and subsequently pressing the composite makes it possible to obtain a blank with plane and parallel faces in which the reinforcing sheet has been kept firmly in place against the upper face of the mold during the pressing operation. Stacking of at least one other layer of constituent on the said blank is performed with a plane reference surface, thus making it possible to obtain a grinding wheel in which the reinforcing sheets are distributed in plane and controlled manner in the grinding wheel once the composite has been pressed. It is then possible to make "extra-thin" grinding wheels with a thickness of 0.5 mm or even 0.4 mm, or even grinding wheels with the thickness of a single grain.

In addition, it is possible to automate, partly or fully, a grinding-wheel production line based on the principle of this process.

The invention also relates to an installation for making grinding wheels of the thin grinding wheel type provided with an abrasive product, characterized in that it is provided with at least one machine for making blanks from abrasive grains, an assembly line equipped in particular with stations disposed in succession, at the position of which layers intended to constitute the grinding wheel and comprising at least one blank

obtained from the blank-making machine are superposed to constitute a stack of superposed layers, followed by a heating station where the stack of layers is heated, and at least one pressing machine for compressing the stack, this pressing machine having the form of a pressing station at the end of the assembly line or being positioned downstream from the assembly line.

By virtue of the fact that the installation is provided on the one hand with a blank-making machine and on the other hand with a heating station and a pressing station, the pressing operations can be performed at moderate pressure.

The installation can also have one or more of the following characteristics:

- the blank-making machine is provided with a production carousel equipped with molds and specialized working stations comprising a station for pouring an abrasive, a leveling station, a pressing station, a discharge station and a cleaning station, and it is also provided with a storage table for storage of the produced blanks; for reasons of space requirements, it is possible to provide an installation in which the blank-making machine is provided with one or more stations, where two or more operations described hereinabove are combined in the same station. It will be preferable to choose a machine in which the abrasive-pouring and leveling stations are combined, especially for the production of extra-thin grinding wheels,
- the assembly line is provided with an endless conveyor which carries fixed plates configured to receive removable plates suitable for receiving stacks of elements constituting the grinding wheel,
- the assembly line is provided with a station for laying rings, stations for laying layers of constituent and a heating station,
- the assembly line is provided with a least one station comprising a temporary stocking device.

According to another advantageous version of the invention, the installation is provided with at least the following elements:

- ▶ a station for filling a mold with the layer or layers of constituent from which a blank is formed,
- ▶ a machine for pressing the layer or layers of constituent contained in the mold in order to form the said blank,
- ▶ an assembly station designed to form a stack of superposed layers from at least one

particularly suitable for the production of extra-thin grinding wheels.

The installation according to this latter version can also have one or more of the following characteristics:

- ▶ the preceding elements are disposed around a production carousel on which at least one mold is fixed,
- ▶ the production carousel is divided into sectors corresponding to working stations for the consecutive operations, each sector comprises at least one position X for a mold and at least one position Y on which one or more layers of constituent of a grinding wheel can be disposed.

According to another advantageous version, the production carousel is divided into a plurality of sectors, each sector corresponding respectively to the working stations where the following consecutive operations are performed:

- ▶ deposition and leveling of abrasive grains coated with a binder in a mold situated at a position X of the sector, especially by means of a tool, and deposition of at least one layer of component, especially a protective layer, at a position Y of the said sector,
- ▶ deposition of at least one layer of component, especially a reinforcing sheet, on the abrasive grains in the mold, and deposition of at least one layer of component, especially a protective sheet and/or a reinforcing sheet, at a position Y,
- ▶ pressing by means of the machine designed to form at least one pressed blank from the layers of constituent contained in at least one mold,
- ▶ constitution of the stack, which consists in taking at least one blank from a position X to lay it at a position Y and thus constituting at least one stack formed by the layers of constituent disposed beforehand in a location Y by at least one blank,
- ▶ pressing of the stack situated at position Y in order to consolidate a grinding wheel by means of the pressing machine,
- ▶ evacuation of the grinding wheel or wheels.

In this configuration of the installation, the blank-making machine is integrated into the assembly line. It must be noted that it is also possible to construct an installation with the elements disposed in line.

Each of the installations described hereinabove can also have one or more of the following characteristics:

- the pressing machine is provided with a carousel equipped with jack-operated presses provided with a movable tool assembly comprising a mold provided with a bottom and a side wall mounted slidably around the bottom, and with a mold support, which is fixed to the piston of the jack and to which the bottom and the side wall are interlocked by spring devices, which are designed such that, during extension of the jack, they subject the stack to pressing force while surrounding it with the side wall and, during retraction of the jack, they initiate the start of upward movement of the side wall while the bottom is still against the stack, then the upward movement of the bottom while the side wall continues its upward movement,
- the pressing machine is provided with presses, each equipped with a support for a removable plate suitable for receiving a stack of layers of constituents of the grinding wheel, and with a cam surface over which there travel rollers, each interlocked with a support to raise the support for the purpose of evacuation of the grinding wheel and of reloading of the removable plate on the assembly line.

According to another version of the invention, the disposition of the pressing elements can be inverted, with the removable plate situated above the mold. In this version, the stack to be pressed on the mold bottom, the mold bottom and the mold then are actuated until the side walls of the mold come into contact with the lower face of the plate in order to close the mold, and allow the pressing operation to begin.

The invention also relates to a grinding wheel of the thin grinding wheel type provided with an abrasive product and made by the process defined hereinabove, characterized in that it comprises at least one reinforcing layer perforated with holes in which there is distributed a part of the abrasive product formed from abrasive grains.

The grinding wheel can also have one or more of the following characteristics:

- it is provided with a central ring,
- it is provided with at least one layer of abrasive product, and each layer of abrasive product is sandwiched between two reinforcing layers,
- its thickness is less than or equal to 2 mm, or even less than or equal to 1 mm.

The invention also relates to a factory or factory section for production of grinding wheels, especially of the thin grinding wheel type, provided with an abrasive product, wherein the factory or the factory section is divided into at least two zones, one zone being designed for the production of blanks constituted at least from abrasive grains and

grains from the zone of final production of the grinding wheels. This installation is particularly advantageous, because the abrasive grains cannot be dispersed in the zone of final production of the grinding wheels, thus making it possible to obtain clean rooms and also to prolong the useful life of the machines greatly by avoiding the abrasion or the malfunctions associated with abrasive grains, which are usually spread through the entire grinding-wheel production shop. It is possible in particular to achieve large economies, because air conditioning or precise temperature control of the final production zone is then unnecessary, since a blank has greater thermal stability than the abrasive grains coated by a binder.

Other characteristics and advantages of the invention will become evident from the description hereinafter of a process and an installation according to this invention and of an obtained grinding wheel, given by way of non-limitative example and illustrated by the attached drawings, wherein:

► **Fig. 1** is a schematic top view of a blank-making machine suitable for use within the scope of the invention,

► **Fig. 2** is a schematic top view of an assembly line with which there is associated a pressing machine for production of abrasive grinding wheels from blanks made by the machine of Fig. 1,

► **Fig. 3** is a schematic section through a vertical plane of part of a press with which the pressing machine shown schematically in Fig. 2 is equipped,

► **Figs. 4 to 6** are schematic sections through a vertical plane of elements of the press, part of which is shown schematically in Fig. 3, for facilitating evacuation of the grinding wheels after pressing and reloading of the assembly line, and

► **Fig. 7** is a schematic top view of an installation for production of abrasive grinding wheels which is suitable in particular for the version of the process according to the invention in which blank A comprises at least one layer of constituent without abrasive grains.

According to the invention, the production of an abrasive grinding wheel does not comprise the stage which consists of pouring a pulverulent abrasive product formed from abrasive grains onto a so-called "fabric" reinforcing layer, but instead comprises a stage which consists of making, from such abrasive grains provided with a coating constituted by a binder, an abrasive blank that can be used as a constituent layer in the production of the grinding wheel; to this end, it is possible, for example, to superpose this blank on a classical reinforcing layer, which itself is superposed on a so-called "paper" layer, and to cover it with a second reinforcing layer which in turn is covered by a "paper" layer to constitute a so-called "monolayer" grinding wheel (or in other words one with a single abrasive layer); for the purpose of constituting a multilayer grinding wheel, it is also possible to superpose on a reinforcing layer a blank and a new reinforcing layer as many times as is necessary to obtain the desired characteristics.

Blank-making machine 1 illustrated by the diagram of Fig. 1 is provided with a stepping production carousel 10 of general circular shape, which is provided here with four sectors equipped with molds, and with specialized fixed working stations for respectively performing the different production tasks or operations on the contents of the molds when these pass opposite them; thus a plurality of blanks can be undergoing production simultaneously on table 10. It is also provided with a storage carousel 11, on which the blanks made on table 10 are aligned and/or stacked before being taken for transfer to an assembly line.

The stations with which machine 1 is equipped are an abrasive-pouring station 12, a station 13 for leveling by skimming, a pressing station 14, a blank-discharge station 15 and a table-cleaning station 16.

The molds, which have general cylindrical shape, comprise a side wall 17, in the interior of which there is mounted a sliding bottom 18 designed to slide in vertical direction and equipped with a central core 19.

Abrasive-pouring station 12 is equipped at its upper part with a reservoir 121 of abrasive product constituted from abrasive grains provided with a coating constituted by a binder; at its lower part, the pouring station has a closable slit in order that the product can be poured into the mold when this is positioned under the slit, the mold bottom being positioned in the side wall at a depth greater than the thickness desired for the blank.

Since a slight excess of abrasive product is poured in, leveling station 13 skims the product flush with side wall 17 of the mold.

Pressing station 14 compresses the product by means of a force on the order of several metric tons (or tens of thousands of newtons), thus forming blank A, which is scheduled to be introduced into the assembly line, to be described hereinafter.

Discharge station 15 transfers blanks A from production table 10 to storage table 11.

Cleaning station 16 cleans the sector of table 10 that passes opposite it, downstream from the discharge station.

Thus, in the present case in which each of the four sectors of table 10 is equipped with a single mold, one mold is being filled, one mold is being skimmed, one blank is being pressed and one blank is being discharged from the production table, all simultaneously or quasi-simultaneously.

By virtue of the fact that blanks ready for introduction into an assembly line are being made, it is easier to produce grinding wheels of different dimensions and, for example, to switch from "monolayer" grinding wheels to "multilayer" grinding wheels or even to switch from production of 115 mm grinding wheels to production of 125 mm grinding wheels and vice versa.

In fact, since the tool assemblies of the stations are not very complex, they can be changed very quickly in the event of a production change or breakdown.

In addition, the carousel has relatively small dimensions (the diameter can be reduced to a value smaller than one meter), and the molds, which are used exclusively for making blanks, have light weight (less than 15 kg).

The pressing force to be exerted on the abrasive product to constitute the blanks one by one is relatively moderate, on the order of several metric tons (or tens of thousands of newtons) for about 1 second.

As a result, an output of 1000 blanks per hour can be achieved easily with a four-mold carousel.

In addition, since the abrasive product is present in the assembly line only in the form of blanks and no longer in pulverulent form, the wear of the assembly line in which the layers of constituents are stacked is appreciably reduced.

Assembly line 2 illustrated by the diagram of Fig. 2 is designed for the production of grinding wheels with two abrasive layers, and therefore with two blanks in the present case.

It is provided with an endless conveyor 20, along which there are distributed specialized fixed working stations for respectively performing the different operations of production of the grinding wheel proper. This conveyor carries plates which are fixed thereto and are configured to receive removable plates 201, on which the different elements, and in particular the different layers of constituents of the grinding wheels, are

stacked one on top of the other as the conveyor rolls along.

More precisely, assembly line 2 is provided with, in succession, in the rolling direction of conveyor 20, a station 21 for laying the central ring, a station 22 for laying the base "paper", a station 23 for laying the lower reinforcing layer, a station 24 for laying the lower blank, a station 25 for laying the central reinforcing layer, a station 26 for laying the upper blank, a station 27 for laying the upper reinforcing layer, a station 28 for laying the upper "paper", a heating station 29 and a discharge and reloading station 30.

Each working station designed to superpose a layer of constituent has available a stock of stacks, each carried on a removable plate 201, and so a brief interruption of the operation of one of the stations, due to a breakdown, for example, does not completely interrupt production of the grinding wheels, since the working stations situated downstream work on their stock and the upstream working stations can be instructed to build up their stocks. In this way, therefore, desynchronization of the production operations is advantageously achieved here.

Heating station 29 heats the stacks P, which pass through it at a temperature of approximately 50 to 80°C, thus facilitating easy flow of the abrasive product constituting the blanks into the holes of the reinforcing layer, such as the meshes in the case of a true fabric or similar material.

Since each station performs a single superposition operation, the assembly line has a certain modularity and an increase in the number of layers can be achieved by simple addition of the appropriate number of stations; for example, to make grinding wheels containing three blanks, it is sufficient to add one station for laying blanks and one station for laying reinforcing layers to the assembly line just described.

In the case in which the reinforcing or "fabric" layers are delivered lined with the "paper" layer, the two immediately successive stations, respectively that for laying the "paper" and that for laying the "fabric" (or vice versa), are replaced by a single station.

It may be pointed out that the laying stations may be automated or manual.

Downstream from assembly line 2, the installation is provided with a pressing machine 3, in which the removable plates exiting heating station 29 together with their contents are transferred via discharge and reloading station 30; alternatively, this pressing machine could be made a part of the assembly line.

Pressing machine 3 is provided with a carousel of general circular shape provided with, for example, six sectors equipped with identical jack-operated presses moving successively to a plate-receiving position. As each removable plate arrives at discharge and reloading station 30 with its stack, it is transferred to the jack-operated press which for the moment is located at this position and which, while continuing its circular path, presses the hot stack present on the plate then interrupts the pressing action such that, at an evacuation position, the grinding wheel formed as a result of pressing of the stack is evacuated while still hot from the press via an evacuation station, and removable plate 201 is transferred via discharge and reloading station 30 back to conveyor 20. As a result of pressing, the different layers of constituents become coalesced, part of the abrasive product of each blank being distributed in the holes of the reinforcing layers and, after cooling, the grinding wheel assumes its final structure.

Since the abrasive product was already in the form of blanks, the duration of the pressing stage is relatively short and, since each press operates only on one stack, the pressing force can be kept at a relatively moderate value (on the order of 20 metric tons, or in other words about 2.10^5 N).

Press 31, part of which is illustrated schematically in Fig. 3, is provided with a movable upper tool assembly comprising a pressing mold, which is designed to fit from above around stack P of layers of constituents placed on removable plate 201 during the pressing operation, and which is interlocked with a mold support 310 fixed at the end of the piston of the jack. This mold is provided with a bottom 311 and a side wall 312 mounted slidably around the bottom, in order that the pressing force can be applied substantially to bottom 311 of the mold and thus deterioration of side wall 312 thereof

can be avoided; preferably, lateral wall 312 is in two parts, in order to be able to change that of the two parts which is intended to be applied against the removable plate, in the event of deterioration. The mold bottom is interlocked with mold support 310 by at least one spring device which, in the absence of load, maintains the mold bottom at a distance from the mold support, and which, when the mold bottom is braced against the stack, becomes compressed to permit the mold support to be applied against the mold bottom and to transmit thereto the full pressing force; the mold side wall is interlocked in the same way with the mold support, the only difference being that the free end of the lateral wall is retracted (upward) by a few millimeters relative to that of the bottom, while the distance separating it from the mold support is approximately identical as long as neither the bottom nor the side wall is braced thereagainst, or in other words as long as the springs of their respective interlocking devices are not compressed.

Thus, during downward extension of the jack, mold bottom 311 is brought into contact with stack P while side wall 312 is not yet in contact with removable plate 201. As mold support 310 continues its travel, the springs become compressed, the distance between the mold support and the mold bottom begins to decrease and, after a closing movement of several millimeters, the mold side wall itself comes into contact with removable plate 201; since mold support 310 is still continuing its travel, it comes into contact with mold bottom 311, and the pressing force is then applied to stack P while the mold support is not yet in contact with side wall 312 which, being in contact itself with removable plate 201, prevents any lateral spreading of the layers of stack P. After the desired time interval, the jack is retracted upward and mold support 310 moves upward, thus causing mold side wall 312 to begin moving back upward while mold bottom 311 is still applied against stack P, after which it moves upward in turn while the side wall is continuing its upward movement.

Since most of the movable components are in the upper part of the press, the risks of deterioration due to abrasive grains that have been accidentally detached from the grinding wheel are reduced.

With view to facilitating evacuation of the grinding wheels from the pressing machine and of reloading the assembly line with removable plates 201, which are threaded onto a spindle 315 carried by the table of the pressing machine and which extend across support 314, the pressing machine is provided at its lower part with a cam surface 316 on which there travels a roller interlocked by a strut structure with support 314 of removable plate 201 (Figs. 4 to 6). Cam surface 316 has three levels. The lowest level of the cam surface corresponds to the pressing stage. When the roller reaches the intermediate level, support 314 becomes detached from the table of the pressing machine and, since the grinding wheel is at a level higher than the free end of spindle 315, it can be pushed sideways toward an evacuation conveyor; when the roller, in continuing its path over cam surface 316, reaches the highest level thereof, support 314 is separated even more from the table, and removable plate 201 itself reaches a level higher than the free end of spindle 315 and thus can be transferred once again onto the assembly line for the purpose of receiving a new ring and a new stack of layers of constituents.

The grinding wheels discharged from pressing machine 31 are then transferred in known manner into another heating station, where they are subjected to hot curing before being stocked for the purpose of delivery.

This installation permits not only the production of flat grinding wheels as in the example described hereinabove but also the production of grinding wheels with offset hub.

Some or all of the transfer operations, especially between blank-making machine 1 and assembly line 2, in the stations of the assembly line or between the assembly line and pressing machine 3, may be manual.

It also results from the design of the installation just described that its reliability is greatly superior to that of the known installations; in addition, the space requirement of the installation is relatively small and, for the production of about one thousand grinding wheels per hour, for example, the footprint of the installation remains smaller

than one hundred square meters.

By virtue of the modularity of the installation, it is possible to change the type of grinding wheel in about fifty minutes and the grinding-wheel diameter in about thirty minutes.

Similarly, it is possible to associate a plurality of blank-making machines with the assembly line in such a way that possible faults can be remedied quickly, or to provide blanks at two or more blank-laying stations in the case of production of multilayer grinding wheels or to prepare for the production, which can be linked together very quickly, of a second type of grinding wheel.

The production line illustrated in the diagram of Fig. 7 is designed for the production of monolayer grinding wheels from a blank A comprising one reinforcing layer.

It is provided with a production carousel 700, which turns in the direction of arrow F and is divided into a plurality of sectors 100, 200, 300, 400, 500, 600, each sector comprising a position X and a position Y, corresponding to a working station where the following operations are performed consecutively in the direction of rotation of arrow F and can take place simultaneously in time:

- ▶ sector 100 comprises a machine 150 for depositing and leveling abrasive grains coated with a binder to fill a mold 170 situated at a position X, and a means 160 for grasping and depositing a protective layer in order to deposit the said layer at a position Y,
- ▶ sector 200 comprises a means for grasping and depositing a reinforcing sheet above the abrasive grains in mold 170 situated at a position X and another reinforcing layer on the protective layer deposited beforehand at a position Y. On the figure, this operation is handled, for example, by an operator 250,
- ▶ sector 300 comprises a pressing machine 350 designed to compress the layers of constituent contained in mold 170 in order to form a blank A,

- ▶ sector 400 comprises means 450 for seizing blank A from position X and superposing it on the layers of constituent disposed beforehand at position Y in order to constitute a stack P,
- ▶ sector 500 comprises a pressing machine 550 for compressing stack P situated at position Y and thus forming a grinding wheel,
- ▶ sector 600 comprises means 650 for evacuation of the grinding wheel.

It must be noted that a press 31 of the type of that described in Fig. 3 can be used and can correspond to pressing machine 550 of sector 500.

It is also possible advantageously to use a press of this type with plate 201 situated above mold 31 and to deposit stack P on mold bottom 311, after which mold rim 312 is brought into contact with plate 201 and pressing can be performed.

It is possible to dispose a plurality of positions of type X and Y in each segment, in order to increase the number of grinding wheels produced at the same time on carousel 700. In particular, it is possible to use removable "cassettes", on which there are located one or more positions X and/or Y and which are disposed on carousel 700.

This system makes it possible quickly to change all positions X and Y of one sector or of all sectors of carousel 700, for the purpose of, for example, changing the dimension of positions X and Y in order to produce grinding wheels of a different size.

The production line may be manual, semiautomatic or fully automated.

The constancy of characteristics of the produced grinding wheels is remarkable in terms of regularity of thickness and unbalance.

CLAIMS

1. A process for production of grinding wheels of the thin grinding wheel type provided with an abrasive product, the process being ***characterized in that*** it comprises a stage consisting of superposing at least two layers of constituent, one of which is a blank (A), which itself is constituted at least from abrasive grains, and of assembling these at least two layers of constituent.
2. A process according to claim 1, ***characterized in that*** at least one blank (A) comprises at least one layer of constituent without abrasive grains, especially a reinforcing sheet.
3. A process according to claim 1, ***characterized in that***, to make the blank (A), an abrasive product formed from abrasive grains provided with a coating constituted by a binder is poured into a mold (16, 17, 170), the level of abrasive product is adjusted to a desired value, and the abrasive product is compressed.
4. A process according to claim 2, ***characterized in that***, to make the blank (A), an abrasive product formed from abrasive grains provided with a coating constituted by a binder is poured into a mold (16, 17, 170), the level of abrasive product is adjusted to a desired value, at least one other layer of constituent without abrasive grains, especially a reinforcing sheet, is deposited and the whole is compressed.
5. A process according to any one of the preceding claims, ***characterized in that*** layers of constituent comprising at least one blank (A) are laid successively one on top of the other to constitute a stack (P), then the stack is heated and subsequently the stack is pressed.
6. A process according to any one of the preceding claims, ***characterized in that*** the layers of constituent are superposed along an assembly line (2), which is equipped with layer-laying stations (22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28) and along which the layers being superposed are made to travel in the form of stacks (P), stocks of stacks being constituted in at least certain stations, from which the stocked stacks are taken one by one to superpose thereon a new layer of constituent, and the stack provided with its new layer being evacuated from the station toward the following station.

7. An installation for making grinding wheels of the thin grinding wheel type provided with an abrasive product, **characterized in that** it is provided with at least one machine (1) for making blanks from abrasive grains, an assembly line (2) equipped in particular with stations (22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28) disposed in succession, at the position of which layers intended to constitute the grinding wheel and comprising at least one blank (A) obtained from the blank-making machine are superposed to constitute a stack (P) of superposed layers, followed by a heating station (29) where the stack of layers is heated, and with at least one pressing machine (3) for compressing the stack (P), this pressing machine having the form of a pressing station at the end of the assembly line or being positioned downstream from the assembly line (2).

8. An installation according to claim 7, **characterized in that** the blank-making machine (1) is provided with a production carousel (10) equipped with molds and specialized working stations comprising a station (12) for pouring an abrasive, a leveling station (13), a pressing station (14), a discharge station (15) and a cleaning station (16), and it is also provided with a storage table (11) for storage of the produced blanks.

9. An installation according to one of claims 7 or 8, **characterized in that** the assembly line (2) is provided with an endless conveyor (20) which carries fixed plates configured to receive removable plates (201) suitable for receiving stacks (P) of elements constituting the grinding wheel.

10. An installation according to one of claims 7 to 9, **characterized in that** the assembly line (2) is provided with a station (21) for laying rings, stations (22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28) for laying layers of constituent and a heating station (29).

11. An installation according to one of claims 7 to 10, **characterized in that** the assembly line (2) is provided with a least one station comprising a temporary stocking device.

12. An installation for production of grinding wheels, especially of the thin grinding wheel type, **characterized in that** it is provided with at least the following elements:

- a station (100, 200) for filling a mold (170) with the layer or layers of constituent from which a blank (A) is formed,

- ▶ a machine (350) for pressing the layer or layers of constituent contained in the mold (170) in order to form the said blank (A),
- ▶ an assembly station (400) designed to form a stack (P) of superposed layers from at least one blank (A) and at least one other layer of constituent,
- ▶ a pressing machine (550) for compressing the stack (P) and forming the grinding wheel.

13. An installation according to claim 12, **characterized in that** the elements (100, 200, 350, 400, 550) are disposed around a production carousel (700) on which at least one mold (170) is fixed.

14. An installation according to claim 13, **characterized in that** the production carousel (700) is divided into sectors (100, 200, 300, 400, 500, 600) corresponding to working stations for the consecutive operations, and in that each sector comprises at least one position (X) for a mold (170) and at least one position (Y) on which one or more layers of constituent of a grinding wheel can be disposed.

15. An installation according to claim 14, **characterized in that** it comprises a production carousel (700) divided into a plurality of sectors (100, 200, 300, 400, 500, 600), each sector corresponding respectively to the working stations where the following consecutive operations are performed:

- ▶ deposition and leveling of abrasive grains coated with a binder in a mold (170) situated at a position (X) of the sector (100), especially by means of a tool (150), and deposition of at least one layer of component, especially a protective layer, at a position (Y) of the said sector,
- ▶ deposition of at least one layer of component, especially a reinforcing sheet, on the abrasive grains in the mold (170), and deposition of at least one layer of component, especially a protective sheet and/or a reinforcing sheet, at a position (Y),
- ▶ pressing by means of the pressing machine (350) designed to form at least one blank (A) from the layers of constituent contained in at least one mold (170),

- ▶ constitution of the stack (P), which consists in taking at least one blank (A) from a position (X) to lay it at a position (Y) and thus constituting at least one stack formed by the layers of constituent disposed beforehand in a location (Y) and by at least one blank (A),
- ▶ pressing of the stack (P) situated at position (Y) in order to consolidate a grinding wheel by means of the pressing machine (550),
- ▶ evacuation of the grinding wheel or wheels.

16. An installation according to one of claims 7 to 15, **characterized in that** the pressing machine (3, 550) is provided with a carousel equipped with jack-operated presses (31) provided with a movable tool assembly comprising a mold provided with a bottom (311) and a side wall (312) mounted slidably around the bottom, and with a mold support (310), which is fixed to the piston of the jack and to which the bottom and the side wall are interlocked by spring devices, which are designed such that, during extension of the jack, they subject the stack (P) to pressing force while surrounding it with the side wall and, during retraction of the jack, they initiate the start of upward movement of the side wall while the bottom is still against the stack, then the upward movement of the bottom while the side wall continues its upward movement

17. An installation according to one of claims 7 to 16, **characterized in that** the pressing machine (3, 550) is provided with presses (31), each equipped with a support (314) for a removable plate (201) suitable for receiving a stack (P) of layers of constituents of the grinding wheel, and with a cam surface (316) over which there travel rollers, each interlocked with a support (314) to raise the support for the purpose of evacuation of the grinding wheel and of reloading of the removable plate (201) on the assembly line (2).

18. A grinding wheel of the thin grinding wheel type provided with an abrasive product, produced by the process according to any one of claims 1 to 6, **characterized in that** it comprises at least one reinforcing layer pierced by holes in which there is distributed part of the abrasive product, which is formed from abrasive grains.

19. A grinding wheel according to claims 18, **characterized in that** it is provided with a central ring.

20. A grinding wheel according to one of claims 18 or 19, **characterized in that** it is provided with at least one layer of abrasive product, and each layer of abrasive product is sandwiched between two reinforcing layers.

21. A grinding wheel according to one of claims 18 to 20, **characterized in that** its thickness is less than or equal to 2 mm, or even less than or equal to 1 mm.

22. A factory or factory section for production of grinding wheels, especially of the thin grinding wheel type, provided with an abrasive product, **characterized in that** the factory or the factory section is divided into at least two zones, **and in that** one zone is designed for the production of blanks (A) constituted at least from abrasive grains **and in that** the other zone is designed for the assembly of at least one blank (A) and at least one other layer of constituent without abrasive grains in order to constitute a grinding wheel.

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(71) Déposant (pour tous les États désignés sauf US): SEVA [FR/FR]; 43, rue du Pont de Fer, F-71100 Chalon sur Saône (FR).

(72) Inventeurs; et
(75) Inventeurs/Déposants (pour US seulement): BANCON, Georges [FR/FR]; 28, rue du Docteur Mancheny, F-71100 Chalon sur Saône (FR). ALBRECHT, Jean-Marie [FR/FR]; 42, rue de la Pierre qui Tourne, F-37400 Amboise (FR). BRIS, Jean-Jacques [FR/FR]; 5, impasse de la vie due Chêne, F-71620 Bey (FR). FAURE, Nicolas [FR/FR]; Résidence les Toits St Jean, 12, rue du Docteur Laennec, F-71100 Chalon sur Saône (FR).

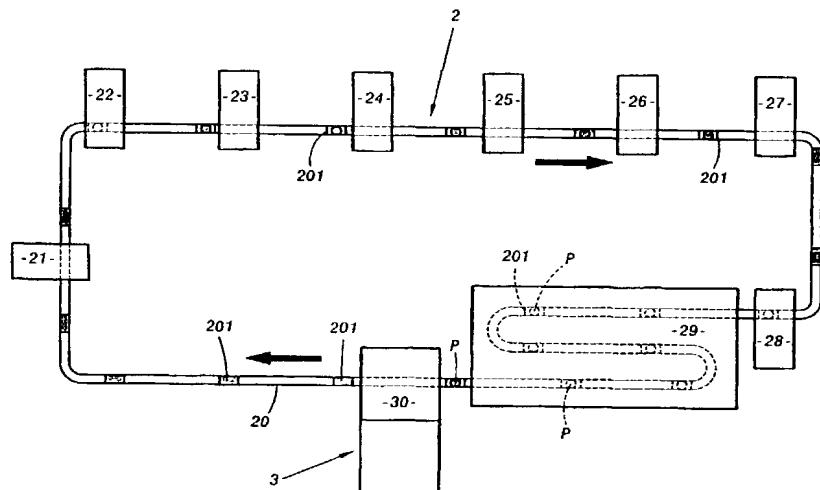
(74) Mandataires: MULLER, René etc.; Saint-Gobain Recherche, 39, quai Lucien Lefranc, F-93300 Aubervilliers (FR).

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[Suite sur la page suivante]

(54) Title: METHOD AND INSTALLATION FOR MAKING ABRASIVE GRINDERS AND GRINDER OBTAINED BY SAID METHOD

(54) Titre: PROCEDE ET INSTALLATION DE FABRICATION DE MEULES ABRASIVES ET MEULE FABRIQUEE PAR CE PROCEDE



(57) Abstract: An abrasive product is formed, in a blank making machine, into a layer forming a blank consisting of at least abrasive grains which is then set atop on at least another material layer and assembled thereto. The installation comprises, besides at least a blank making machine, an assembly line (2) along which are successive posts (21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28) at the site whereof the elements designed to form the grinder are set on top of one another to form a stack and a station (29) for heating said stack, and at least a pressing machine (3) to compress the heated stack. Another embodiment of the invention does not include the heating station (29). The grinder is a thin grinder comprising at least a reinforcing layer pierced with hole wherein the abrasive product is distributed. The invention is useful for making grinders for parting, machining or pumicing.

[Suite sur la page suivante]

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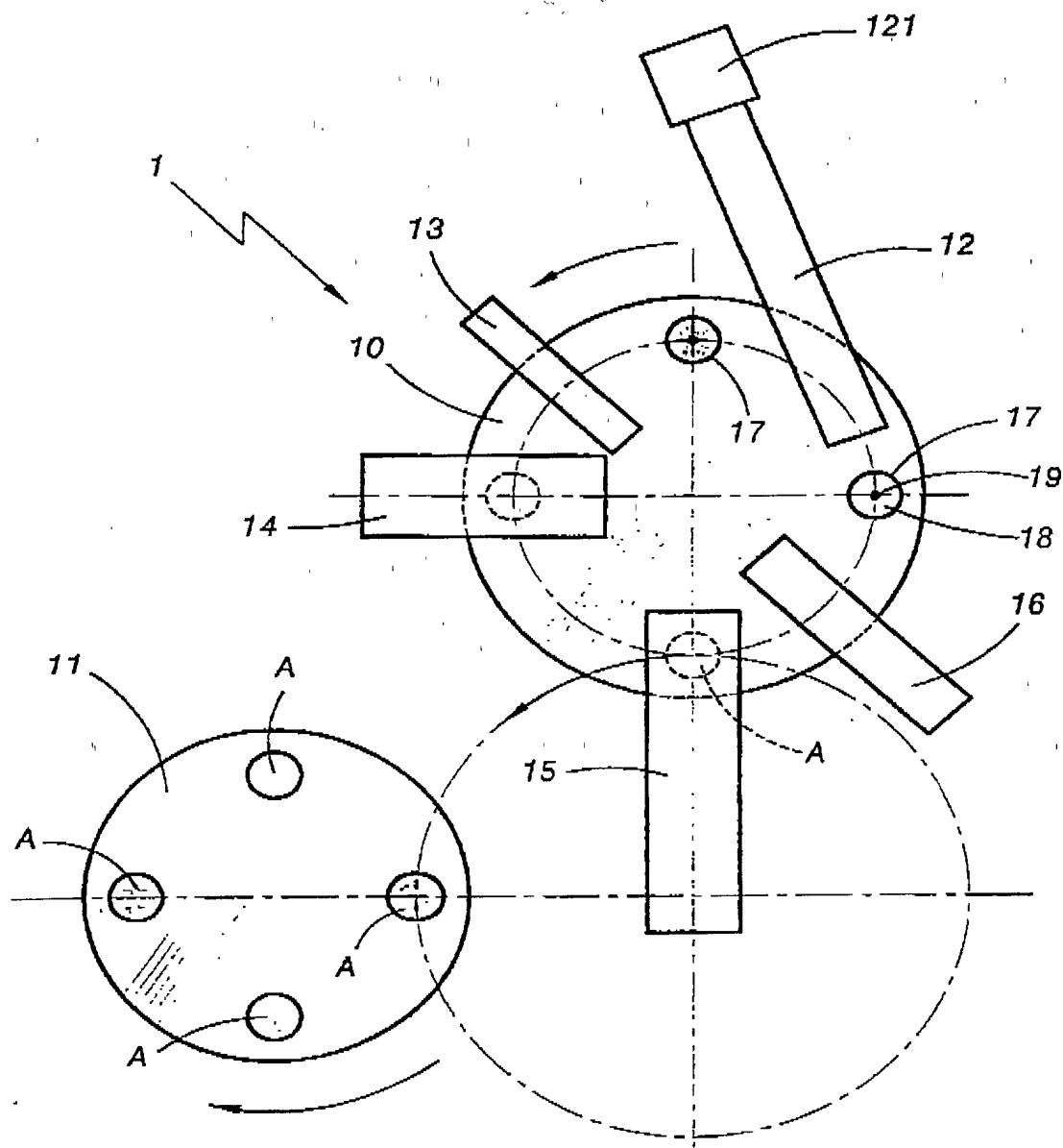


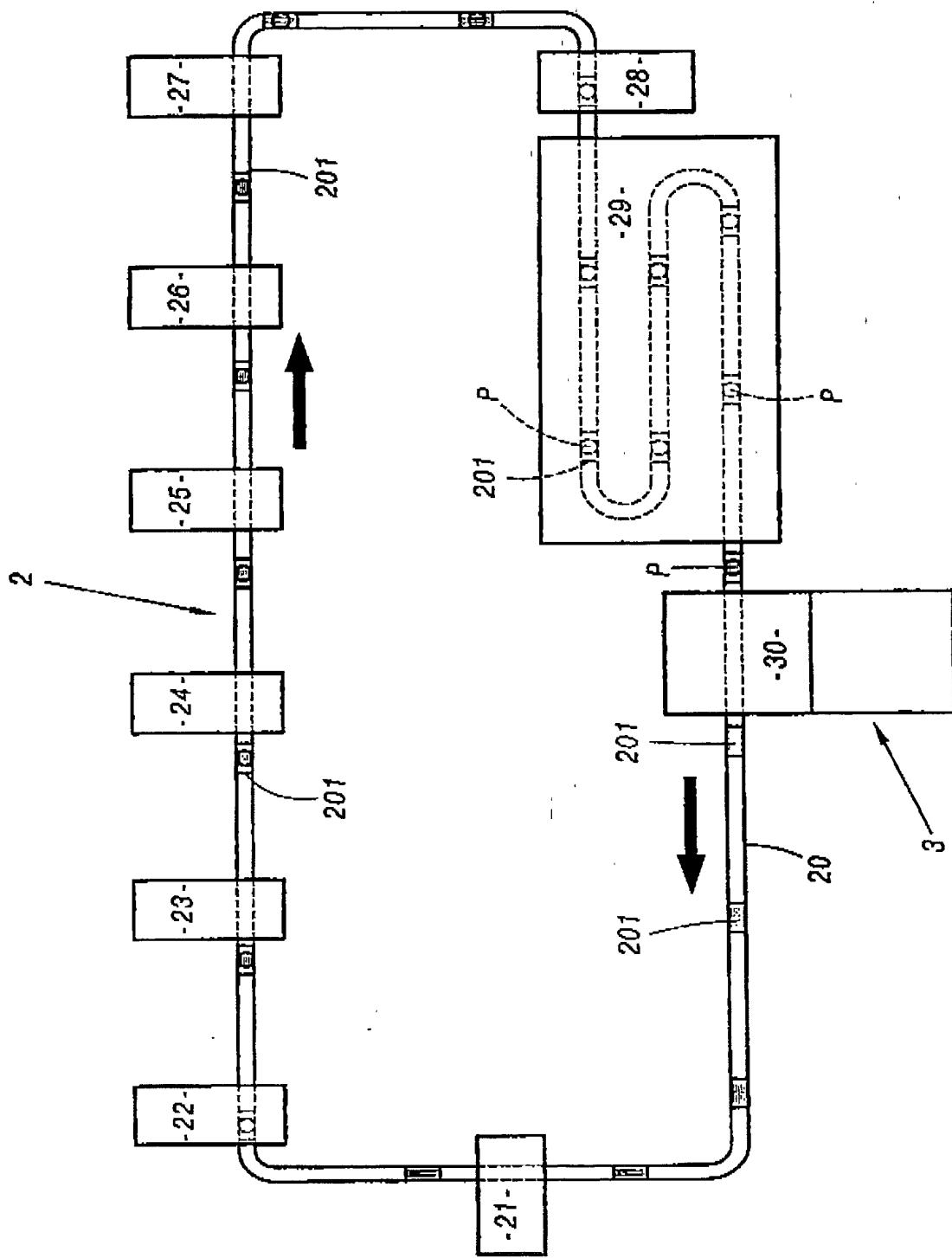
FIG. 1

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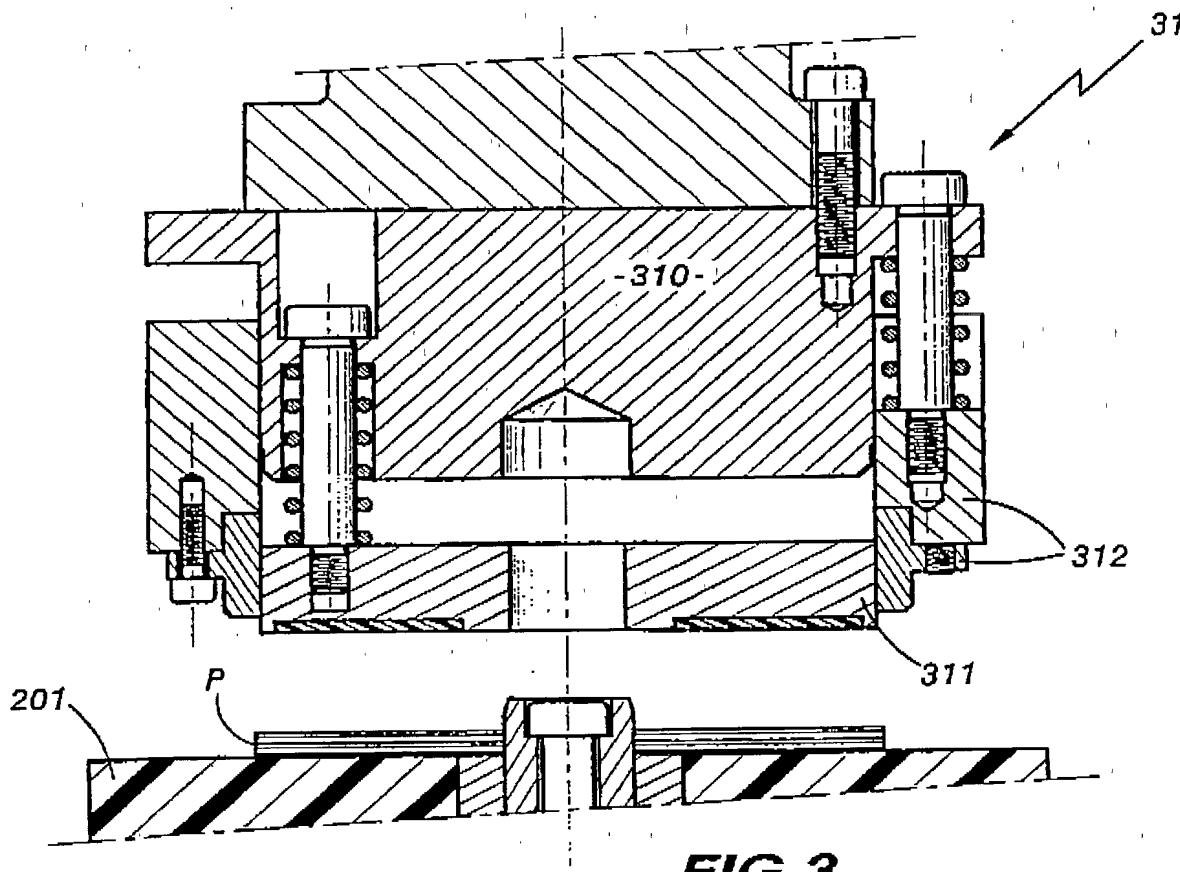
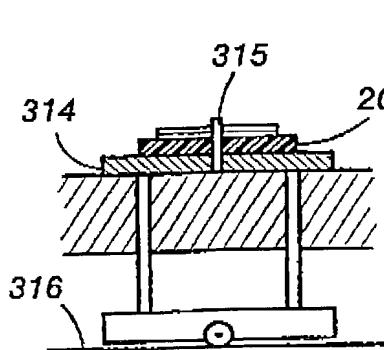
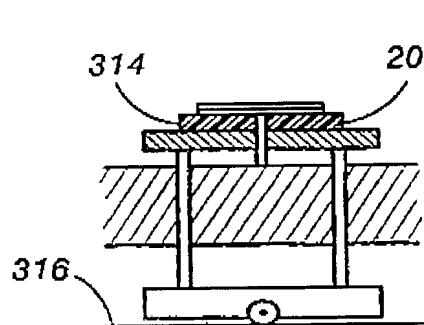
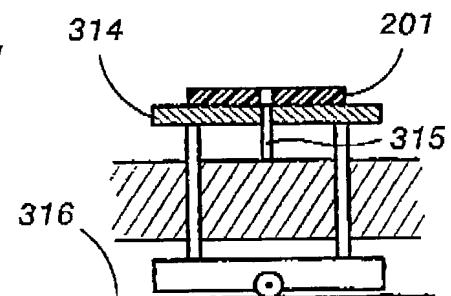
FIG.2

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**FIG.3****FIG.4****FIG.5****FIG.6**

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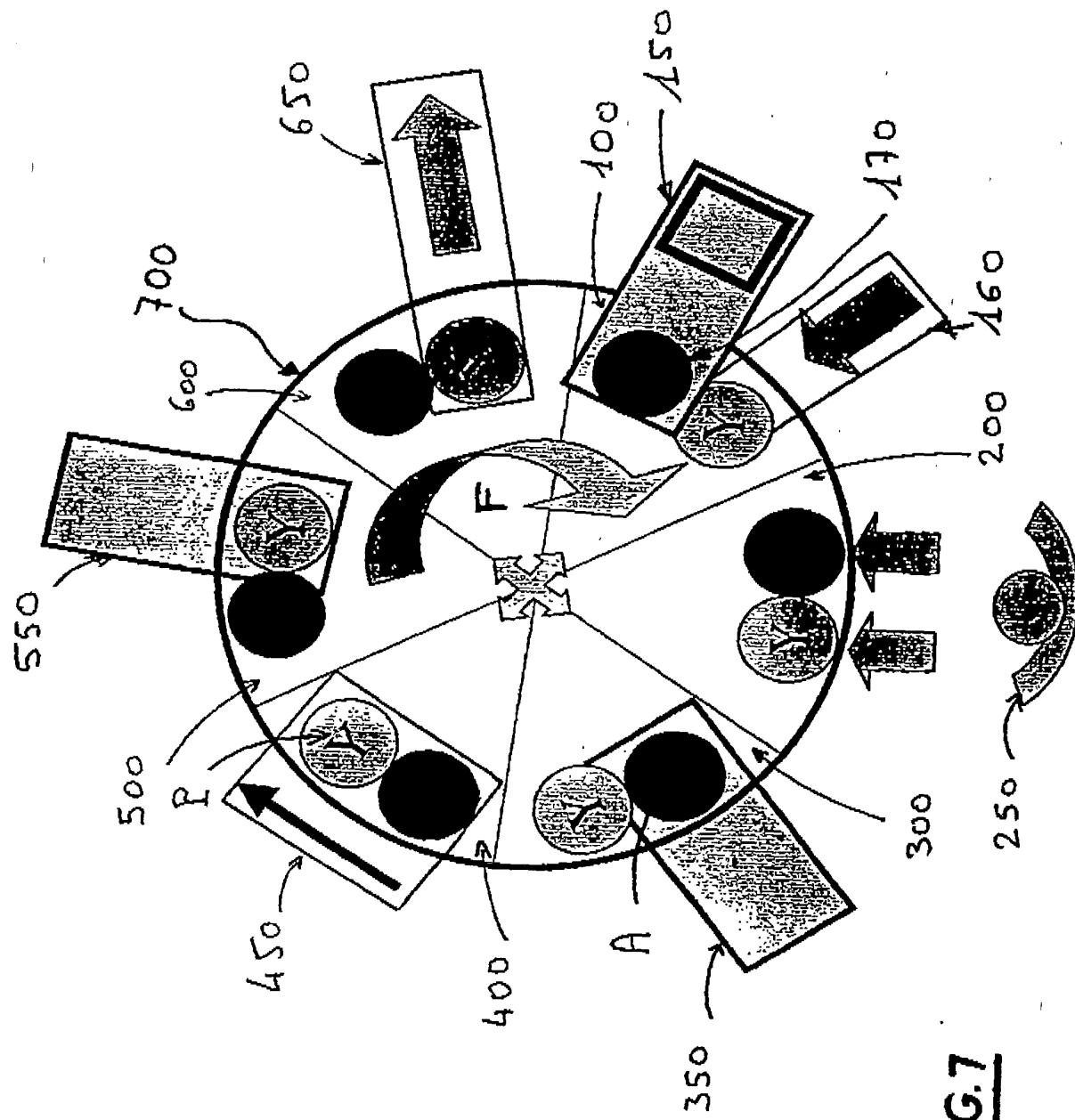


FIG. 7

Declaration and Power of Attorney for Patent Application
Déclaration et Pouvoirs pour Demande de Brevet
French Language Declaration

En tant l'inventeur nommé ci-après, je déclare par le présent acte que:

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

Mon domicile, mon adresse postale et ma nationalité sont ceux figurant ci-dessous à côté de mon nom.

My residence, mailing address and citizenship are as stated next to my name.

Je crois être le premier inventeur original et unique (si un seul nom est mentionné ci-dessous), ou l'un des premiers co-inventeurs originaux (si plusieurs noms sont mentionnés ci-dessous) de l'objet revendiqué, pour lequel une demande de brevet a été déposée concernant l'invention intitulée

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

et dont la description est fournie ci-joint à moins

METHOD AND INSTALLATION FOR MAKING ABRASIVE GRINDERS AND GRINDER OBTAINED BY SAID METHOD

- ci-joint
- a été déposée le

the specification of which

sous le numéro de demande des Etats-Unis ou le
numéro de demande international PCT

is attached hereto

was filed on June 9, 2000

as United States Application Number or PCT International Application Number

_____ et modifiée le
(le cas échéant).

PCT/FR00/01602 and was amended on
(if applicable)

Je déclare par le présent acte avoir passé en revue et compris le contenu de la description ci-dessus, revendications comprises, telles que modifiées par toute modification dont il aura été fait référence ci-dessus.

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

Je reconnais devoir divulguer toute information pertinente à la brevetabilité, comme défini dans le Titre 37, § 1.56 du Code fédéral des réglementations.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56.

French Language Declaration

Je revendique par le présent acte avoir la priorité étrangère, en vertu du Titre 35, § 119(a)-(d) ou § 365(b) du Code des Etats-Unis, sur toute demande étrangère de brevet ou certificat d'inventeur ou, en vertu du Titre 35, § 365(a) du même Code, sur toute demande internationale PCT désignant au moins un pays autre que les Etats-Unis et figurant ci-dessous et, en cochant la case, j'ai aussi indiqué ci-dessous toute demande étrangère de brevet, tout certificat d'inventeur ou toute demande internationale PCT ayant une date de dépôt précédant celle de la demande à propos de laquelle une priorité est revendiquée.

Prior Foreign Application(s)

Demande(s) de brevet antérieure(s) dans un autre pays.

99 07282	France
(Number)	(Country)
(Numéro)	(Pays)

Je revendique par le présent acte tout bénéfice, en vertu du Titre 35, § 119(e) du Code des Etats-Unis, de toute demande de brevet provisoire effectuée aux Etats-Unis et figurant ci-dessous.

(Application No.) (Nº de demande)	(Filing Date) (Date de dépôt)
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Je revendique par le présent acte tout bénéfice, en vertu du Titre 35, § 120 du Code des Etats-Unis, de toute demande de brevet effectuée aux Etats-Unis, ou en vertu du Titre 35, § 365(c) du même Code, de toute demande internationale PCT désignant les Etats-Unis et figurant ci-dessous et, dans la mesure où l'objet de chacune des revendications de cette demande de brevet n'est pas divulgué dans la demande antérieure américaine ou internationale PCT, en vertu des dispositions du premier paragraphe du Titre 35, § 112 du Code des Etats-Unis, je reconnaiss devoir divulguer toute information pertinente à la brevetabilité, comme défini dans le Titre 37, § 1.56 du Code fédéral des réglementations, dont j'ai pu disposer entre la date de dépôt de la demande antérieure et la date de dépôt de la demande nationale ou internationale PCT de la présente demande:

PCT/FR00/01602	June 9, 2000
(Application No.) (Nº de demande)	(Filing Date) (Date de dépôt)

(Application No.) (Nº de demande)	(Filing Date) (Date de dépôt)
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Je déclare par le présent acte que toute déclaration ci-incluse est, à ma connaissance, vérifique et que toute déclaration formulée à partir de renseignements ou de suppositions est tenue pour vérifique; et de plus, que toutes ces déclarations ont été formulées en sachant que toute fausse déclaration volontaire ou son équivalent est possible d'une amende ou d'une incarcération, ou des deux, en vertu de la § 1001 du Titre 18 du Code des Etats-Unis, et que de telles déclarations volontairement fausses risquent de compromettre la validité de la demande de brevet ou du brevet délivré à partir de celle-ci.

I hereby claim foreign priority under Title 35, United States Code, § 119 (a)-(d) or 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or § 365(a) of any PCT International application which designated at least one country other than the United States, listed below and have also identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate, or PCT International application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed

Priority Claimed
Droit de priorité
Revendiqué

9 June 1999	(Day/Month/Year Filed) (Jour/Mois/Anné de dépôt)
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Yes
 Oui No
 Non

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, § 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below.

(Application No.) (Nº de demande)	(Filing Date) (Date de dépôt)
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I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, § 120 of any United States application(s), or § 365(c) of any PCT International application designating the United States, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT International application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, § 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT International filing date of this application.

(Status: Patented, Pending, Abandoned) (Statut : breveté, en cours d'examen, abandonné)
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(Status: Patented, Pending, Abandoned) (Statut : breveté, en cours d'examen, abandonné)
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I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

French Language Declaration

POUVOIRS: En tant que l'inventeur cité, je désigne par la présente l'(les) avocat(s) suivant(s) pour qu'ils poursuive(nt) la procédure de cette demande de brevet et traite(nt) toute affaire s'y rapportant avec l'Office des brevets et des marques: (mentionner le nom et le numéro d'enregistrement).

POWER OF ATTORNEY: As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith: (list name and registration number)



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Addresser toute correspondance à:

Send Correspondence to:

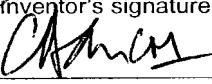


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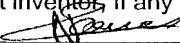
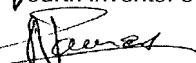
(703) 413-3000

Nom complete de l'unique ou premier inventeur	1-00	Full name of sole or first inventor Georges BANCON
Signature de l'inventeur	Date	✓ Inventor's signature  Date 05/15/02
Domicile		Residence 28, rue du Docteur Manchony, F-71100 Chalon sur Saone, France 
Nationalité		Citizenship France
Adresse Postale		Mailing Address same as above

Nom complete du second co-inventeur, le cas échéant	2-00	Full name of second joint inventor, If any Jean-Marie ALBRECHT
Signature de l'inventeur	Datum	✓ Second inventor's signature  Date 04/29/002
Domicile		Residence 42, rue de la Pierre qui Tourne, F-37400 Amboise, France 
Nationalité		Citizenship France
Adresse Postale		Mailing Address same as above

French Language Declaration

Nom complet du troisième co-inventeur, le cas échéant <u>3-00</u>		Full name of third joint inventor, If any <u>Jean-Jacques BRIS</u>
Signature de l'inventeur	Date	Third inventor's signature  Date <u>05.15.02</u>
Domicile	Résidence 5, impasse de la vie du Chene, F-71620 <u>Bey</u> , France 	
Nationalité	Citizenship France	
Adresse Postale	Mailing Address same as above	

Nom complet du quatrième co-inventeur, le cas échéant <u>4-00</u>		Full name of fourth joint inventor, If any <u>Nicolas FAURES</u> 
Signature de l'inventeur	Date	Fourth inventor's signature  Date <u>05.15.02</u>
Domicile	Residence Residence les Toits St Jean, 12, rue du Docteur Laennec, F-71100 <u>Chalon sur Saone</u> , France 	
Nationalité	Citizenship France	
Adresse Postale	Mailing Address same as above	